

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WINNIP 00244 080056Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /069 W

-----095048 080107Z /61

R 071440Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1936

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS BY POUCH

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 0244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION SUPPORTS UNITED CANADA

1. SUMMARY: IN ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION, THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENTED ITS FORMULA FOR MAINTAINING NATIONAL UNITY -- A "POSITIVE OPTION" WHICH WELCOMES QUEBEC NATIONALISM. NDP LEADER ED BROADBENT SOLIDIFIED HIS ROLE AS LEADER AS A HOST OF RESOLUTIONS REFLECTING THE NDP'S DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST ORIENTATION WERE PASSED. END SUMMARY.

2. SOME 1200 DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES FROM CANADA'S NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) CONVENED IN WINNIPEG OVER THE LONG CANADA-DAY WEEKEND TO CHART THEIR NATIONAL PARTY'S COURSE FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. ALTHOUGH NDP RANKS ARE PEOPLED BY A WIDE SPECTRUM OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST SUPPORTERS, THE RESOLUTIONS PRODUCED AT THE CONVENTION WERE NEITHER STARTLINGLY STRIDENT NOR PARTICULARLY INNOVATIVE.

3. THE MAIN ISSUE, OF COURSE, WAS NATIONAL UNITY. EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 20 DELEGATES FROM QUEBEC (WHERE THE PARTY DOES NOT OPERATE), THIS ISSUE PROVIDED THE ONLY MAJOR RIFT AT THE CONVENTION. LEADER ED BROADBENT, FORMER LEADER DAVE LEWIS AND OTHER PARTY FATHERS QUASHED AN ATTEMPT BY A SMALL GROUP OF RADICALS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 WINNIP 00244 080056Z

(FEWER THAN 30) WHO ARGUED THE PARTY SHOULD MAKE NO EFFORT TO KEEP QUEBEC IN CONFEDERATION IF THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE WANT OUT. INSTEAD, THE NDP VOTED TO RECOGNIZE AND WELCOME QUEBEC NATIONALISM AS A "POSITIVE FORCE" IN BUILDING A SOCIALIST CANADA. WHILE RESOLVING THAT QUEBECERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WITHOUT COERCION, THE NDP ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROVINCE WILL ELECT TO STAY IN CANADA. AS LEWIS PUT IS, "WE THINK YOU

HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE, AND WE DAMN WELL CARE VERY MUCH WHAT YOU CHOOSE."

4. BROADBENT CALLED THIS THE NDP'S "POSITIVE OPTION" WHICH LINKS NATIONAL UNITY WITH THE IDEA OF CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY. THIS INVOLVES EMPLOYMENT AND JOB SECURITY, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, RESTORATION OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND FAIRER TAXATION. THE RADICALS ARGUED THAT THIS NDP PLATFORM WOULD PUT THEM IN LEAGUE WITH LIBERALS AND TORIES WHO WANT TO KEEP CONFEDERATION INTACT REGARDLESS OF FEELINGS IN QUEBEC. ALTHOUGH THE ARGUMENT PROVIDED THE MAJOR EXCITEMENT, THE RADICAL POSITION WAS OVERWHELMINGLY VOTED DOWN.

5. EVEN THOUGH HE HAD NO APPARENT CHALLENGERS TO HIS NDP LEADERSHIP, BROADBENT STRENGTHENED HIS GRIP ON THE PARTY, ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS. STARTING WITH A SOMEWHAT LACKLUSTER KEYNOTE ADDRESS, HE PLAYED A LEADING IF NOT DOMINANT ROLE IN STEERING THE CONVENTION THROUGH MORE THAN EPP RESOLUTIONS. BY CONVENTION'S END, HE HAD THE DELEGATES ON THEIR FEET CHEERING HIS ENTHUSIASTIC CHALLENGE FOR THE NDP TO REPLACE THE TORIES AS THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION. BROADBENT SAID HIS PARTY IS READY FOR A NATIONAL ELECTION AT ANY TIME AND PREDICTED "WE'RE GOING TO COME BACK TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF NEW DEMOCRATS IN THE HISTORY OF CANADA."

6. OTHER NOTABLE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE CONVENTION INCLUDED:

-- A CALL TO STOP MAJOR NORTHERN ENERGY PROJECTS UNTIL  
NATIVE LAND CLAIMS ARE SETTLED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 WINNIP 00244 080056Z

AA A COMMITMENT TO NATIONALIZE ALL ASSETS OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

-- REJECTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NATIONALIZATION OF IMPERIAL OIL

-- ENDORSED MAJOR RECOMMENDATION OF HALL COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN STATUTORY FREIGHT RATES ON GRAIN SHIPMENTS.

-- CONDEMNED THE "ARROGANT INTERFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM" AND ITS ATTEMPTS TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ON POTASH PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS PUT INTO EFFECT SOME YEARS AGO BY THE PROVINCE SASKATCHEWAN.

-- ADOPTED PROPOSALS TO HALT NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA AND SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS ABROAD.

-- DEMANDED A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO ALL EVIDENCE GIVEN AT THE EXTRADITION HEARING OF AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT LEADER LEONARD PELLETIER.

-- AGREED THAT HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM BEING BARRED OR FIRED FROM A JOB SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL PREFERENCE.

7. RANDOM NOTES:

-- THE MAIN GUEST SPEAKER WAS BRITAIN'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL FOOT WHO TOLD DELEGATES THAT DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM MOST CLOSELY FITS THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

-- THE NDP GOVERNMENTS OF MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN TOOK THEIR LUMPS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM AS THE FEDERAL NDP CONTINUED ITS STANCE AGAINST THE AIB.

-- MANITOBA'S NDP WHICH FACES A ROUGH CHALLENGE IN THE NEXT PROVINCIAL ELECTION (PROBABLY IN THE FALL) KEPT A LOW PROFILE AT THE CONVENTION. A SOURCE SAID THE FEDERAL NDP IS SEEN AS TOO RADICAL FOR THIS PROVINCE, AND PREMIER SCHREYER AND HIS CABINET WANTED TO KEEP A REASONABLE DISTANCE.

8. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES IN THE SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA NDP'S, THE CONVENTION WAS SEEN AS VERY SUCCESSFUL. FIRST, BROADBENT CLEARLY PUT HIS STAMP ON THE CONVENTION AND SOLIDIFIED HIS GRIP ON THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. ALSO, ORGANIZERS WERE MORE THAN PLEASED WITH THE TURN-OUT AT A CONVENTION WHERE THE LEADERSHIP WAS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 WINNIP 00244 080056Z

AT STAKE, AND AT A TIME WHEN NATIONWIDE CANADA-DAY ACTIVITIES OFFERED A LOT OF COMPETITION.  
HUTSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, NATIONALISM, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977WINNIP00244  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770242-0340  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** WINNIPEG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770780/aaaacrsy.tel  
**Line Count:** 139  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 55f7146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1930784  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION SUPPORTS UNITED CANADA  
**TAGS:** PINT, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/55f7146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009